

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
Commission Meeting
Aug 25, 2005
Ike Skelton Training Facility

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Craig Borchelt, Loretta Charleston, Rep. David Pearce, Kent Thomas, Robert L. Welling, Brig. Gen. King E. Sidwell, Rep. Terry L. Witte, Dalton Wright, Aaron Washburn (for Sen. Koster), Senator Frank Barnitz, Jason VanEaton (Sen. Bond).

Others in attendance: Sharon Gulick, DED; Rebecca Hoelscher, DED; Major Wilkerson, Missouri National Guard; Allen Stark, Missouri National Guard

Making presentations: Steve Nelle, DESE, Veterans Education and Training; Lucia Demaoi, MERIC; Rep. (Col.) Jack Jackson

Media: KRCG, Missouri Net, KLIK

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Kent Thomas moved that the minutes from the July 26, 2005 meeting be approved. Bob Welling seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Presentations:

Steve Nelle, DESE, Veterans Education and Training

Provided background on program and the GI Bill. In addition to traditional education programs, training assistance is also available for on the job training (OJT). Missouri currently leads the nation with over 713 approved programs that include both blue-collar, white-collar and management positions. Also provide apprenticeship training. In FY02 Missouri had 7,357 veterans using their GI Bill benefits. Estimate that there are currently nearly 85,000 currently eligible to utilize the programs.

Chair Wright suggested that the Commission look at ways to ensure that military personnel are aware of the program and benefits.

Rep. (Colonel) Jack Jackson

Rep. Jackson is State Representative from 89th district, chair of the House Veterans Committee and a reserve colonel and participated in the BRAC process a few years ago.

Rep. Jackson thanked Sen. Bond's office for assistance they have provided and if 131st stays it will directly because of Sen. Bond's efforts.

Expressed his concern that when the current BRAC recommendations were announced all of the states provided information to the commission on why their bases and facilities should remain but doesn't believe that Missouri provided that type of information and is now playing catch-up.

Rep. Jackson was emphatic in his desire that this Commission talk with the BRAC Commission on how essential it is to keep the 131st. Not only will we use the security that 131st provides, but also the jobs associated with the National Guard Units at Lambert.

He also discussed the importance of welcoming the new units and military personnel that will be coming to Missouri at Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base.

Rep. Pearce said that he felt that this Commission and the House Veterans Committee have opportunities to work together to make sure that our veterans are taking advantage of the programs and assistance available. Need to work to make Missouri a more military friendly state.

Jason VanEaton reported that Missouri is within a few minutes of vote on HRC and DFAS. Gen. Sidwell said that the vote on the 131st will probably occur on Friday. Jason also reported that we have received positive feedback from Commissioners on HRC and DFAS and Sen. Bond is "guardedly optimistic" about the outcome of the vote.

Chair Wright felt that Missouri has learned a great deal from this BRAC process and hopes that we will use that knowledge in the future to ensure the retention of military facilities in Missouri.

Lucia Demaoi, MERIC

MERIC has done an impact report on FLW and WAFB in the past (copies provided to the Commission). Lucia described what an impact study is and what it would entail. To do such a study we need to have in-depth information on facilities, employment, and especially contractors.

Biggest challenge is to get information on military contractors to identify the "defense related" industries in Missouri. Mr. Thomas suggested that perhaps Sen. Bond's office could ask DOD for a list of all prime contractors and then contact them to ask about sub-contractors. Senator Bond does a sub-contractors conference twice a year that allows the companies to meet with Boeing to learn about contracting opportunities. Perhaps we could use that list. Mr. Thomas suggested that perhaps just working with the primes would be a good start. Rep. Skelton does an annual procurement conference to assist small business in learning more about DOD contract opportunities.

Chair Wright said that the key would be to decide how much value would be gained by getting the sub-contractors vs. the cost to obtain. Perhaps we should start with the primes. Mr. Borchelt suggested going to AUSA to learn more about what the

contractors needed to be successful and how Missouri could help them be more successful business in Missouri.

Goal of the study is to stimulate the attractiveness of Missouri to obtain more defense contracts. Model of Tech Park at FLW should be a piece of making MO attractive. Gen. Sidwell said that there are other facilities (such as 131st) that could be leveraged to attract industries. Need to identify these facilities and the opportunities associated. DED brainstorm these facilities. Gen. Sidwell gave example of aviation reset at Lambert. Directly related to air facility in Springfield.

Rep. Pearce suggested talking with current contractors to find out what are the things that Missouri should/could be doing to help them grow. Example: EnerSys needs help in hiring employees. DED needs to have a staff person dedicated to Defense Industries. Mr. Thomas was concerned that DED has been cut so much that he wondered if there would be sufficient staff to do this. Need to look at funding to assist with this effort.

Chair Wright suggested that the Commission hold some hearings around the state, assisted by DED, to hear from businesses on their needs. Set this for goal in 1st quarter of 2006; however, for the remainder of this year the Commission will deal with quality of life issues.

Mr. VanEaton reported that Sen. Bond's office has seen a huge increase in the number of companies that are interested in working to support the military. .

Chair Wright asked that Sharon pull out the key points from this discussion and

- Set up series of meetings in 2006 with industries to talk about how Missouri can be a better environment for growth
- How do we want to position Missouri for future defense industry? Where do we want to be in 10 years? Invite the key people.
- DED needs a full-time staff person dedicated to military and business industries issues. Focus needs to be broader than DED – many other agencies involved. Office should be a clearinghouse for both industries, military personnel looking for jobs opportunities; expand contracting opportunities, etc.

Sharon and Lucia will work on impact of military facilities and will work with Sen. Bond's office to try and determine dollars to prime contractors. Prepare briefing to allow Commission to determine how to proceed.

Use data to prepare press release and help educate key officials and communities on impact and potential.

Preliminary data by end of October with final report in January.

Jared Craighead, Governor's Office – Consultant Update

Thanked Chair Wright for opportunity to speak with the Commission. An activity report from Buzz Hefti, Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA), and collateral materials from consultant were provided in meeting packet.

Mr. Craighead reported that Mr. Hefti has done a great job for Missouri despite Missouri only getting involved in the BRAC process after the recommendations had been made. VSA developed arguments for Missouri to make at June 20th regional meeting in St Louis. Developed a “thump” book for the BRAC staff that made the site visit to 131st in St. Louis and why DOD recommendations didn't make sense. Consultant has a team member at the BRAC hearings today providing constant updates on the voting. Also tracking impact on other states to determine if the BRAC recommendations may or may not pass the US congress when voted on.

Gen. Sidwell said that Mr. Hefti was most helpful in formulating our responses to the BRAC recommendations. Mr. VanEaton also said that he was most helpful and that Sen. Bond has been frustrated with Missouri's response in the past, but this has been extremely beneficial. He also reported that staff is doing a tally on the impact to other states to see if there will be sufficient votes to support the recommendations.

Rep. Witte inquired about the value of the consultant's contract. The initial cost was \$40,000. An accountant was later hired to help evaluate the impact numbers to determine if economic impact was accurate was an additional \$10,000. The contract also contains a provision for \$12,000 a month after the initial contract period. Mr. Craighead estimated that the final cost will be between \$100,000 and \$125,000. The contract will probably not be extended after the middle of September unless we want help with the facilities that are being cut back or closed. Mr. Craighead said that the Commission would be asked for input on this decision.

He also reported that DED applied and was approved for \$1 million federal grant for post-BRAC ramifications and help to displaced employees. Commission will be asked to help determine how to best use these funds.

Rep. Pearce said that the amount of the VSA contract was consistent with what communities and organizations supporting Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base spent on their consultants. Suggested that Missouri should consider having an experienced consultant on full-time to deal with BRAC and other military issues.

National Guard Briefing – Gen. King E. Sidwell

Air National Guard – If BRAC approves 131st remains at St. Louis we still have an important issue. 139th has potential to gain aircraft. 167th at Jefferson Barracks may move a portion of its aircraft to Lambert, dependent on capital improvements at Lambert. Gen. Sidwell provided an overview of the facilities in the state and their missions.

Army National Guard – Provided a map on location of Guard locations in the state. Have deployed roughly 7,300 of the 8,537 Air and Army Guard throughout the world to locations including Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq, among others.

Doesn't plan to close any armories in the state. Would like to get a permanent facility in St. Peters and Tiffany Springs (near KC). Funding for facilities is generally 75% federal and 25% state. If facility is located on a federal facility, it is cover 100% by federal funds. Now may not be the time to ask for additional state funding for these new armories. Some possibilities with joint facility usage. Local group could donate land, but doesn't count toward 25%. General Sidwell provided the Commission with a list of construction demands.

Transportation access to the facilities and bases is a determinant of how attractive a location is for National Guard members to come for training and drilling. Demographics and recruiting also impact units.

Chemical and Biological Response – Missouri has 4,755 available forces and has agreement with adjacent states to utilize their forces if necessary.

Retention for units that have been deployed is higher than for units that have not been deployed. Family support programs for personnel and their families that have been deployed.

Issue looming after BRAC is Title X and Title 32 status. Air Force will take the position that certain missions can not be performed by National Guard that are in Title 32 status. Will have significant impact on Homeland Defense.

Mr. Borchelt asked about funding on Operation Rates. Reset and repair of equipment returning from deployment is a challenge. Having problems getting equipment back to operational standard. Just getting equipment is a challenge.

Alan Stark reported on a meeting he attended at the Technology Park at FLW with General Abrams from the Abrams Learning Group on bioterrorism. Vision is to create a center of excellence on bioterrorism. A lot of homeland security funds has been returned to congress for lack of activity on bioterrorism R&D.

Action Items from July 26th Meeting:

Commission members reviewed the draft Action Items and made several additions and changes. A revised copy is attached to these minutes.

Craig Borchelt moved that Dalton Wright meet with DED Director Greg Steinhoff to discuss creation of a fulltime position to assist with military and defense related industries. Bob Welling seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Gen. Sidwell discussed the problem of accidental over payment for some members of the service. This creates confusion with reimbursement issues. He is working with Congressional delegation to look at legislation to deal with the problem.

Craig Borchelt suggested that the members of the Commission be assigned to a geographic area of the state and serve as the liaison with the facilities in the area rather than asking each facility to designate a liaison to the Commission. Group felt that having a liaison to the Commission might be best. Need to raise awareness of the Commission with the military leadership in Missouri.

The Commission also discussed the need to add an item to address need for budget for Commission. Staff was asked to research what other states are doing with regard to funding and initiatives. Kansas has a \$1 million annual allocation. Appears that Commission needs to budget for the consultant. Sen. Barnitz felt that Commission should set a figure that is high enough to cover anticipated costs based on the items and initiatives listed in the Action Items, but was still one that we can back off if necessary. Ms. Charleston suggested an amount between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Sharon will work with Rep. Pearce to rough out a draft budget for approval at September meeting. While bulk of the budget request may be in DED's budget, some portions could be in other agency budgets depending on the topic.

Kent Thomas moved that DED rough out a budget of no more than \$500,000 and bring to the September meeting for approval. Rep. Pearce seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Bob Welling presented a resolution to the Commission regarding encroachment at Whiteman Air Force Base. Based upon a study and findings of the Spectrum Group of Alexandria, Virginia, a consultant hired by the Whiteman Area Leadership Council, together with the oral testimony provided to this Commission at the Whiteman Hearing held in Warrensburg, encroachment was confirmed as the major issue confronting the future stability, growth and enhancement of the Whiteman Air Force Base facility. Mr. Welling stated that in a recent discussion with Congressman Ike Skelton, Mr. Skelton suggested that it would be helpful to him and to the Base Commander of Whiteman if the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission provided an expression of support about the issue of encroachment. The resolution expressed the Commission's support of efforts to initiate procedures, both administrative and legislative, including compliance with Air Force Instruction 32-9001, to acquire additional land for Whiteman Air Force Base deemed necessary and appropriate for the future viability of the base.

Kent Thomas moved that the Commission adopt this expression of support statement. Bob Welling seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The resolution was signed by all members and will be presented to Rep. Ike Skelton, Senator Bond and Senator Talent as well as the Base Commander of Whiteman Air Force Base. A copy of the signed resolution is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Future meeting topics

- Budget
- Discuss how to keep members of the General Assembly aware of the Commission and its work. Need to raise their awareness of the Commission

and its focus. The list of action items could be used as a discussion document with General Assembly and Governor's office to identify additional items or issues that Commission should consider. May want to provide the General Assembly a preliminary report on what the Commission is looking at during the Special Session. Use the list of action items – Rep. Pearce, Rep. Witte, Sen. Barnitz and Sen. Koster will work on a document and distribute.

- Finalize list of Action Items and how to accomplish.
- Work on final draft of annual report.
- Report on final BRAC decisions
- Have consultant provide a wrap-up report to Commission and what, if anything, Missouri could have done differently with regard to BRAC.

Future Meeting dates:

Change September 13th meeting to September 21st

Craig Borchelt moved that the Commission empower the Chair and Vice Chair to speak on behalf of the Commission with regard to the recommendations of the BRAC Commission and the impact on Missouri. Kent Thomas seconded. Motion approved.

Some members felt that Missouri was at a disadvantage because of the late start on response to BRAC. Mr. Borchelt felt that was a misstatement as many individuals and organizations have been involved and working on the BRAC recommendations. It was felt that the Commission was, however, at a disadvantage with its late appointment. The charter of the Commission is to work within the confines of the decision made by congress to make Missouri a friendly location for military. We are to move forward to work within the confines of the BRAC process and its recommendations. Need to address with regard to the best interest of the state.

Members asked that any news releases that are issued be also sent to members of the Commission.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved:



21 Sept 2005

Dalton Wright, Chair

Date

EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT

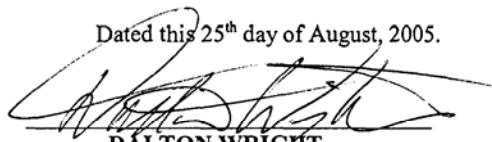
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WHEREAS, the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission of the State of Missouri has concluded that Encroachment is a major issue confronting the future stability, growth and enhancement of present and future mission capabilities at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to conclude that a remedy to such Encroachment is the acquisition of additional land for Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD); and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission of the State of Missouri do hereby express to Congressman Ike Skelton and to the Base Commander of Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, and to Senator Kit Bond and to Senator Jim Talent, our support and encouragement for their efforts to initiate procedures, both administrative and legislative, including compliance with Air Force Instruction 32-9001, to acquire additional land for Whiteman Air Force Base deemed necessary and appropriate for the future viability of Whiteman Air Force Base as a major military installation serving Missouri and the Nation.

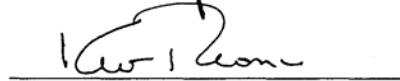
Dated this 25th day of August, 2005.



DALTON WRIGHT
Commission Chairman



CRAIG BORCHELT
Commission Member



KENT D. THOMAS
Commission Member



FRANK BARNITZ
Commission Member



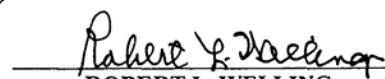
TERRY WITTE
Commission Member



DAVID PEARCE
Commission Vice Chairman



LORETTA CHARLESTON
Commission Member



ROBERT L. WELLING
Commission Member



CHRIS KOSTER
Commission Member